

**ISSUES:**

1. Should NAVSAC incorporate the PTP philosophy and guiding principles into all deliberations of issues for which they advise the Coast Guard?
2. How much and what type direction should the Coast Guard be expected to provide to assist an advisory council in addressing PTP issues?
3. Would you or your colleagues in the marine community use a web site containing "near accident" information, training deficiencies, equipment failures, etc., if suppliers of information were anonymous? Would such a web site be useful to you in implementing PTP into your work environment?

**INVITATION TO NAVSAC:**

Discuss the issues and develop solutions or processes for addressing them for Council approval in plenary.

**BACKGROUND:**

Since the fall of 1994, the Coast Guard, in cooperation with the marine industry, has been working on a long-term strategic plan to refocus accident prevention efforts towards the human element. NAVSAC and other Coast Guard advisory councils have been identified as valuable resources in creating a safety culture in which the role of people is emphasized in preventing casualties and pollution. As NAVSAC's PTP Committee meets for the third time, you may have incorporated the PTP philosophy into your work environment. Reference 2 summarizes the PTP Committee's efforts to date.

The guiding principles of PTP are:

- Honor the Mariner
- Take a Quality Approach
- Seek Non-Regulatory Solutions
- Share Commitment
- Manage Risk

**ISSUE 1:** The Coast Guard brings issues to NAVSAC for advice and recommendations for resolution. Applying PTP principles to these

discussions, i.e., looking first at the "human" element in every issue, could result in innovative solutions that are non-regulatory and less costly. The PTP principles could also be applied in discussing issues that Council members raise or other advice that members provide. If the Council embraces this concept, the PTP Committee could recommend a process to ensure consistent application.

**ISSUE 2:** Unlike most issues that the Coast Guard brings to the Council, PTP requires more than advice and a recommended solution. PTP is an ongoing program and one where you have the most influence in effecting the desired outcome of the "world's safest, most environmentally sound and cost-effective marine operations". As a member of the marine community, you see situations first-hand that the Coast Guard may become aware of only when there is a mishap. You are in a position to identify these situations and take corrective steps before the Coast Guard has to react. Therefore, your experience and standing in the marine community may enable you to bring information into Committee discussions that the Coast Guard is not aware of.

NAVSAC expressed concern about duplication of efforts among the various Councils on PTP issues. This may be bad, but it may also be good since the objective and membership of each Council is different. NAVSAC is a broad based Council whose charter touches all aspects of the marine world. The other councils are focused on a particular segment of the marine world as indicated in Reference 3 which is a summary of Coast Guard Advisory Committees.

Is the real concern duplication of effort? Or, could it be lack of communication, feedback, and interaction among the Councils? Should outputs from the various Councils be coordinated and/or consolidated? Should NAVSAC be advised of the status of national committees, program implementation, and related factors by the Coast Guard? Does the Coast Guard representative to the PTP Committee perform this function or is a specific process needed? If so, what would you recommend? Do you want the Coast Guard to assign PTP issues to the various Councils, or would you prefer to have carte blanche to pursue the issues that may result in changes that impact you directly?

**ISSUE 3:** If a web site is the best way to gain access to information, who should establish it? To fully integrate the PTP philosophy and guiding principles into our daily lives requires a culture change. To effect this cultural change, what information would be helpful to you in assessing and improving your safety posture? What information would be useful to assist you in identifying and resolving human element issues? What should be on the site and who is the intended audience? What information

is already available? What information would you post anonymously? Would use of a clearinghouse to sanitize the information for posting result in more open mariner input?

Some information is already available on the internet. The Coast Guard Research and Development Center has a "Coast Guard Human Factors" web site. In addition to descriptions of all recent and on-going projects, the site includes the Coast Guard's Human Factors Research Plan, links to various maritime and human factors web sites, and the ability to download many of the technical reports and publications which cover Coast Guard R&D projects. The site address is: "<http://www.rdc.uscg.mil>". Reference 4 contains a preview of what is available.

#### **REFERENCES:**

1. National Research Council Interim Report "Vessel Navigation and Traffic Services for Safe and Efficient Ports and Waterways".
2. NAVSAC's PTP Committee Summary
3. Summary of Coast Guard Advisory Committees.
4. Preview of CG R&D Human Factors Web Site